

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

3 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR [] FEP

THROUGH: COPS
TES

FROM []

SUBJECT: Luncheon conversation with Brutus Coste, Former Romanian
Diplomat, *ambassador of*

REF : Memorandum dated 23 December 1948 concerning subject matter.

1. Writer had occasion to go to New York City on official business the week of January 23. While there, the opportunity to have luncheon with subject presented itself and the following is a resume of miscellaneous information casually picked up from subject during the course of the meal.

2. Subject's main theme was finance, and due to lack of funds it was almost impossible for the eight or nine thousand Romanian refugees in exile throughout the world to do anything but hope and pray for the best.

3. He stated that during the Christmas season four refugee friends of his, who were living in Paris at the time, became so despondent they took their own lives. King Michael's financial situation is such that the only member of his entourage he can afford to keep is General Lascar. Apropos of King Michael, source further said, "He (Michael) does not have \$10,000.00 to his name." Concerning General Radescu's financial condition, source stated that he receives aid from various Romanians living in the United States but that Radescu had tried unsuccessfully to have Totesou (former Charge d'Affaires, Romanian Legation, Lisbon) to turn over the funds Totesou now had in his possession as custodian of the ex-Legation's property and files. Radescu based his authority to receive these funds on the fact that he is the last legal Prime Minister of Rumania. Totesou, however, refused to accede to the General's request and will not release the funds unless he is ordered to do so by a committee which would be officially recognized as the Rumanian Government in exile.

4. Subject was quite disappointed with the way the State Department has received General Radescu's requests for assistance. He bemoaned the fact that no one in the Department seems to have any authority and that it is impossible to reach anyone who has the right or power to take action. He cited, as an example, a plan he had presented to the Department to bring several hundred carefully picked

SECRET

REGISTERED

OSO Registry

JUN 20 1943

SECRET

- 2 -

young Romanian refugees to the United States to study administration and related subjects so that when Rumania is liberated they will be equipped to take over top level administrative posts. The funds to carry through this project were to come from the United States Government. Subject stated that the plan was warmly received by the Department, but nothing had been heard as yet since it was still being "studied". Source stated it is absolutely necessary such a plan be inaugurated as the Russians have systematically liquidated the younger intellectual groups, and it is necessary that future leaders be picked from the cream of the younger intellectuals at present in exile.

5. Source made a few caustic remarks about the United States Intelligence system's failure to operate properly in Rumania. He stated that the expulsion of Colonel Lovell from Rumania again proved the United States is wrong in sending people under military cover to do intelligence work. He stated that Colonel Lovell was linked with a Radescu underground net and because of his being identified as an intelligence officer the head of the Radescu underground group was also uncovered, but the rest of the organization was not revealed as it was so set up that even though the group leader was exposed it could still continue to function.

6. Coste gave the impression he is quite disillusioned and his main concern seems to be to get his United States immigration visa so he will be able to secure a social security card and then seek employment. This impression was strengthened when Coste mentioned that General Radescu and Barbu Niculescu were then in Washington on what would undoubtedly prove to be another "futile" mission.

SECRET